PRESS RELEASE

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Parliamentary Human Rights Group

Parliamentarians of 8 EEC countries call for East Timor self-determination.

A declaration signed by Members of the national Parliaments of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom , was sent today to the Governments of the European Community, calling upon them to work collectively for the self-determination of the people of East Timor.

East Timor was invaded by Indonesia in December 1975 and forcibly annexed in July 1976. Since then, Indonesian forces have tried vainly to crush the resistance. During the war, an estimated 200,000 people, nearly a third of the population, have lost their lives.

Each year since 1975, resolutions calling for self-determination for East Timor have been passed by the UN General Assembly. In 1982 the voting was 50 to 46, with 50 abstentions. Of the Community nations, Greece and Ireland supported the resolution, while the rest abstained.

Commenting on the declaration today, Lord Avebury, chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, said:-

"This is the first time a human rights initiative has been taken by Parliamentarians of European Community countries acting together. Its timing is just right in view of what is happening now in East Timor."

"In March this year, talks were held between the Indonesian military administration in East Timor and the leaders of the resistance movement, Fretilin, and a ceasefire was agreed. Fretilin asked for a UN mission to visit the territory, the withdrawal of Indonesian troops, and the organisation of an internationally supervised act of self-determination. They have since confirmed these demands, and warmly welcomed the 1982 UN Resolution, in a letter to the Secretary General of April 11, signed by Gusmao Xanana, commander of the Fretilin military forces."

"The Indonesian Government, on the other hand, deny that a ceasefire was agreed and say the talks concerned only the terms of an amnesty. They continue to insist that East Timor is their internal affair, and the Foreign Minister, Mr Mochtar Kusumaatmaja, has said that the talks are 'aimed at preempting any foreign involvement in the settlement of the dispute'. This suggests that the Indonesian Government hope to use the talks for the objective that has eluded them for the last seven years, of getting the question of East Timor removed from the General Assembly's agenda."

"These developments show the willingness of the people of East Timor to negotiate a peaceful settlement with the Indonesians. They also prove that, contrary to Indonesian claims, there is a well-organised resistance movement which has widespread support from the Timorese people."

"The European Community could play a positive part in assisting the peace process if governments act together. I hope this declaration will lead to a united vote of the Community at this year's General Assembly in favour of the principle of self-determination."

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DECLARATION

We the undersigned Members of Parliament call upon the Governments of the European Community to work collectively for the self-determination of the people of East Timor, in accordance with the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Resolution of the General Assembly adopted in November 1982.

Composition of Signatories

Altogether 170 Members of Parliament of the national Parliaments of eight member states of the European Community have signed the above Declaration. They come from a variety of political parties.

The 37 British Parliamentarians include Members from the Labour Party, the Conservative Party, the Liberals, the SDP and Plaid Cymru.

The seven Irish Parliamentarians, of whom two are Senators, represent four parties, the Fianne Fail, Fine Gael, the Labour Party and the Workers Party.

The 22 German MPs are from the Social Democratic Party and the Greens.

The Belgian Parliamentarians, 29 in all, include Members and Senators from Flemish, French and Walloon parties - ecologists, social Christians and socialists, the Flemish Nationalist Party and the Belgian Communist Party.

The largest group, 61 in all, is from the Netherlands Parliament, who are from seven different parties: The Labour Party, the Democrats '66, the Pacifist Socialists, the Dutch Communist Party, the Reformed Political Association, and two small Christian parties.

All six French signatories are from the French Communist Party, and the signatories from Italy (6) and Denmark (2) are from leftwing parties.

(Lists of the signatories are available on request.)

For further information, please contact:

Lord Avebury, 828-0460, or 828-1113
or
Carmel Budiardjo (TAPOL), 874-3262

SIGNATORIES OF THE EAST TIMOR DECLARATION

Deputy Bernard Anselme	Socialist Party
Senator Robert Belot	" "
Deputy Willy Burgeon	" "
Deputy Jean Caudron	Flemish Nationalist Party
Deputy Robert Collignon	Socialist Party
Deputy Claude Dejardin	" "
Deputy A. Deneir	Flemish Social Christian Party
Deputy Mrs. R. Dury	Socialist Party
Deputy O. Deleuze	French Ecologist
Deputy L. Dierickx	Socialist Party
Deputy J. Daras	French Ecologist
Deputy Daniel Fedrigo	Belgium Communist Party
Deputy F. Geyselings	Socialist Party
Senator J.E. Humblet	Walloon Socialist
Deputy Mare Harmegiries	Socialist Party
Senator Mrs. S. Jortay-Lemaire	French Ecologist
Deputy Anne-Marie Lizin	Socialist Party
Deputy Henri Mordant	Belgium Communist Party
Deputy Jacques Nagels	" " "
Senator Mrs. M. van Puymbroeck	Socialist Party
Deputy Marcel Remacle	" "
Senator C. Saive-Boniver	French Ecologist
Deputy Jean-Louis Thys	Social Christian Party
Senator G. Trussart	French Ecologist
Deputy Alain Vanderbiest	Socialist Party
Deputy Jules Vercaigne	Social Christian Party
Senator J. Wijninckx	Flemish Socialist Party
Senator Y. de Wasseige	Walloon Socialist
Deputy Yvan Ylieff	Socialist Party

United Kingdom

SIGNATORIES OF THE EAST TIMOR DECLARATION

Lord Avebury	Liberal Party
Gerald Bermingham	Labour Party
Sydney Bidwell	Labour Party
Sir Bernard Braine	Conservative Party
Dennis Canavan	Labour Party
Lewis Carter-Jones	Labout Party
John Cartwright	SDP/Alliance
Terry Davis	Labour Party
Alf Dubs	Labour Party
Gwyneth Dunwoody	Labour Party
John Evans	Labour Party
Bob Edwards	Labour Party
Martin Flannery	Labour Party
George Foulkes	Labour Party
John Fraser	Labour Party
Norman Godman	Labour Party
Doug Hoyle	Labour Party
Sean Hughes	Labour Party
Russell Johnston	Liberal Party
David Knox	Conservative Party
Bob Litherland	Labour Party
Tony Lloyd	Labour Party
E. Loyden	Labour Party
Gregor Mackenzie	Labour Party
Joan Maynard	Labour Party
Willie McKelvey	Labour Party
Michael Meacher	Labour Party
W. Michie	Labour Party
Ian Mikardo	Labour Party
M. O'Neill	Labour Party
Bob Parry	Labour Party
Laurie Pavitt	Labour Party
Jo Richardson	Labour Party
Barry Sheerman	Labour Party
Gavin Strang	Labour Party
Dafydd Wigley	Plaid Cymru
David Winnick	Labour Party

SIGNATORIES OF THE EAST TIMOR DECLARATION

Kees van den Anker	PVDA
Relus ter Beck	PVDA
H.M. de Boois	PVDA
Flip Buurmeyer	PVDA
Bakker	CPN
Brouwer	CPN
Ria Beckers-de Bruijin	PPR
F. Castricum	PVDA
D.W. de Cloe	PVDA
E.G. Cotterell	D'66
C.N. van Dis	SGP
Dirk Duinker	PVDA
M. Epema-Brugman	PVDA
A.C. van Es	PSP
L.S. Groenman	D'66
A.V.D. Hek	PVDA
Eveline Herfkens	PVDA
R.M. Haas-Berger	PVDA
Wynie Jabaay	PVDA
Henk Knol	PVDA
Z. Kommstamm	D'66
M.J. Konings	PVDA
Aad Kosto	PVDA
Peter Lankhorst	PPR
C. Mertens	D'66
Wim Meyer	PVDA
Frans Moor	PVDA
G. Morthingra-Faze	D'66
Ina Muller-v Ast	PVDA
Fritz Niessen	PVDA
Jettje v Nieuwenhoven	PVDA
A. Nuis	D'66
David van Ooijen	PVDA
Stan Poppe	PVDA
W.A. de Pree	PVDA
S. Patijn	PVDA
H. Rienks	PVDA
Hein Roethot	PVDA
H. van Rossum	SGP
Nora Salomons	PVDA
G. Schaapman	PVDA
Schreuders	CPN

France

SIGNATORIES OF THE EAST TIMOR DECLARATION

Deputy Francois Asensi	French Communist Party
Deputy Georges Bustin	" " "
Deputy Andre Lajoinie	" " "
Deputy Robert Montdargent	" " "
Deputy Louis Odru	" " "
Deputy Theo Vial-Massat	" " "

Italy

SIGNATORIES OF THE EAST TIMOR DECLARATION

Deputy Luca Cafiero	P.D.U.P.
Deputy Mario Catalano	"
Deputy Famiano Crucianelli	"
Deputy Alfonso Gianni	"
Deputy Lucio Magri	"
Deputy Eliseo Milani	"

Denmark

SIGNATORIES OF THE EAST TIMOR DECLARATION

Steen Folke MP	Left Wing Socialist Party
Anne Grete Holmsgaard	" " " "

SIGNATORIES OF THE EAST TIMOR DECLARATION

G.J. Schutte	GPV
A.G. vd Spek	PSP
B. Spieker	PVDA
P.R. Stoffelen	PVDA
Rob Tazelaar	PVDA
Rene Toussaint	PVDA
P.K. ter Veer	D'66 *
Elske ter Veld	PVDA
Henk Veldhoen	PVDA
J. Veldhreiken	D'66 *
M.J. de Visser	PVDA
B.J. vander Vlies	SGP
Jules de Waart	PVDA
Jacq. Wallage	PVDA
H.J.G. Waltmans	PPR *
W.J. Willems	PSP
P.J.C. Worrell	PVDA
Thys Wöltgens	PVDA
Kees Zijlstra	PVDA

* The signatures from Dutch MPs were obtained during the previous Parliament. The names with asterisks are not Members of the present Parliament.

PvdA = Dutch Labour Party
CPN = Dutch Communist Party
PPR = Political Radicals Party
PSP = Pacifist Socialist Party
D'66 = 1966 Democrats
GPV = Reformed Political Association
SGP = Christian (Staakunder) Party

Republic of Ireland

SIGNATORIES OF THE EAST TIMOR DECLARATION

Niall Andrews T.D.	Fianne Fail
Richard Burton T.D.	Fine Gael
Proinsias de Rossa T.D.	Workers Party
Tomas Mac Giolla T.D.	Workers Party
Enda Kenny T.D.	Fine Gael
Senator Chris Kirwan	Labour Party
Senator Michael O'Higgins	Labour Party

German Federal Republic

SIGNATORIES OF THE EAST TIMOR DECLARATION

Members of the Bundestag

Gert Bastian	(Green)
Rudolf Bindig	(Social Democratic Party)
Andreas von Bülow	(" " ")
Dieter Burgmann	(Green)
Freimut Duve	(Social Democratic Party)
Wolfgang Ehmke	(Green)
Hans Gottfried	(Social Democratic Party)
Erika Hickel	(Green)
Gert Jannsen	(")
Horst Jungmann	(Social Democratic Party)
Petra K. Kelly	(Green)
Julius H. Krizsan	(")
Jan Oostergetelo	(Social Democratic Party)
Peter Paterna	(" " ")
Christa Reetz	(Green)
Gunther Schluckebier	(Social Democratic Party)
Renate Schmidt	(" " ")
Dirk Schneider	(Green)
Walter Schwenninger	(")
Ludwig Stiegler	(Social Democratic Party)
Roland Vogt	(Green)
Antje Vollmer	(")